



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

# Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Branch (1145b)  
3437 Airport Way  
Suite 206  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4777

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: September 13, 2004

EXPIRATION DATE: October 12, 2004

REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-1990-305-O

WATERWAY NUMBER: Chena River 133

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the attached plan.

APPLICANT: Mr. Ryan Binkley, Operations Manager, Alaska Riverways Inc., 1975 Discovery Drive, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

LOCATION: Section 13, T. 1 South, R. 2 West, Fairbanks Meridian, Latitude 64° 49' 84" N., Longitude 147 51' 98" W. The project area is located on the Chena River, 3.6 miles upstream of its confluence with the Tanana River.

WORK: Proposed dredging of river bottom material to maintain a nine-foot channel depth at docking facility during low water conditions. The work involves the use of a dragline and an excavator to dredge 4,000 cubic yards of accumulated material from below the ordinary high water mark. The project area is 80' by 300' in size, and will require a seven-foot deep cut along the riverbank. The proposed work is in accordance with plans (sheets 1-2) dated September 8, 2004.

PURPOSE: The maintenance of a nine-foot channel depth at docking facility during low water conditions. The River Boat Discovery requires dry-docking ever few years for maintenance and inspection. The floating mooring dock/dry-dock is sunk in place by pumping water into the floatation tanks. The Discovery is then positioned over the dock, and the dock raised by pumping water out of the tanks. Without the proposed work the existing dry-dock structure could not function properly.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The dredging will be done by a dragline operating off of a temporary work pad constructed from the dredge material. The temporary pad will be 30' to 40' wide at the base and will be 200' long. After the work pad is completed, the dragline will stockpile the dredge material on the pad behind it. An excavator will transport the material off the pad, and place it into dump trucks that will haul the material upland. At the completion of the dredging operation, the dragline and/or excavator will remove the work pad and slope the riverbank to a 2:1 graded. The project is expected to take 10 to 14 days to complete. Alaska Riverways Inc. was issued a Department of the Army Permit (POA-1990-303-I) for the proposed work on September 28, 1990. The dredging at the dock facility was completed in mid-October 1990, and the permit expired December 31, 2000.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There is a registered or eligible property in the vicinity of the worksite. It has been designated the Davidson Ditch. Because it has been determined to be within the project area and it is a designated National Historic Landmark, a determination of effect will be made in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the National Park Service will be consulted. Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer at this time. Any comments SHPO may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area. Preliminarily, the described activity will not affect threatened or endangered species, or their critical habitat designated as endangered or threatened, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The proposed work is being evaluated for possible effects to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) pursuant to the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1996 (MSFCMA), 16 U.S.C. et seq and associated federal regulations found at 50 CFR 600 Subpart K. The Alaska District includes areas of EFH as Fishery Management Plans. We have reviewed the January 20, 1999, North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Environmental Assessment to locate EFH area as identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). We have determined that the described activity within the proposed area will not adversely affect EFH, including anadromous fish and federally managed fishery resources.

SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATION: None

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur, are therefore determined by the outcome of the general balancing process. That decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general,

the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Mr. Forrest E. McDaniel at (907) 474-2166, or email at [Forrest.E.McDaniel@poa02.usace.army.mil](mailto:Forrest.E.McDaniel@poa02.usace.army.mil) if further information is desired concerning this notice.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authority:

(X) Perform work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States - Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States - Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

A plan and Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification are attached to this Public Notice.

District Engineer  
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Attachments

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

# STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

## DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

### DIVISION OF WATER

Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control Program

401 Certification Program

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

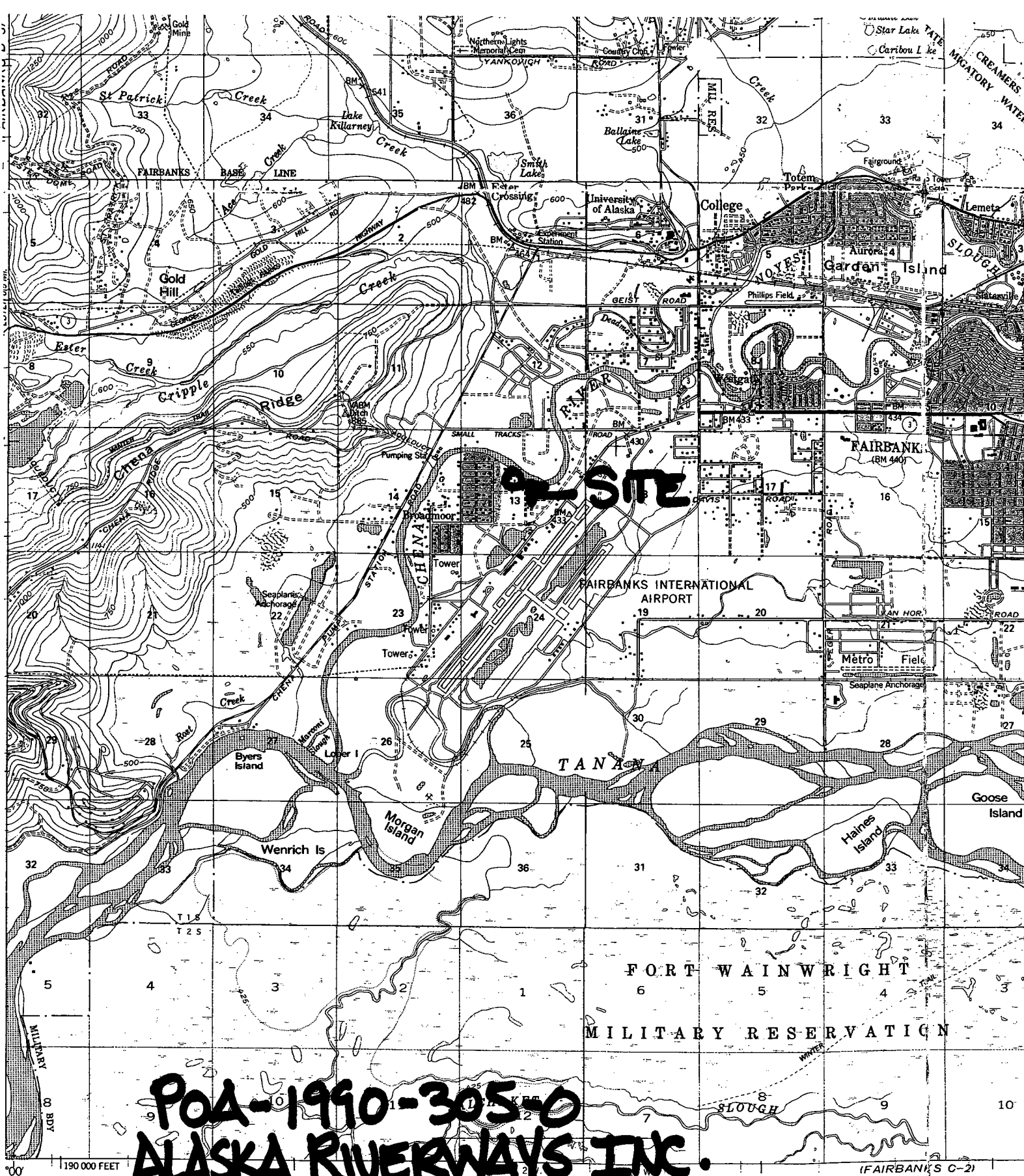
Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct an activity that might result in a discharge into navigable waters, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), also must apply for and obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the discharge will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. By agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation, application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge dredged or fill material into navigable waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act also may serve as application for State Water Quality Certification.

Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice No. POA-1990-305-0, Chena River 133 serves as application for a short-term variance of State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation, as provided in Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL 95-217).

The Department will review the proposed activity to ensure that, except for an allowed, short-term variance, any discharge to waters of the United States resulting from the referenced project will comply with the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

Any person desiring to comment on the project with respect to Water Quality Certification may submit written comments within 30 days of the date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice to:

Department of Environmental Conservation  
WQM/401 Certification  
555 Cordova Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2617  
Telephone: (907) 269-7564  
FAX: (907) 269-7508



Produced by the United States Geological Survey

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Compiled from aerial photographs taken 1949, culture revised 1955 from aerial photographs taken 1954. Map not field checked

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 10 000-foot ticks: Alaska Coordinate System, zone 3 (Transverse Mercator) Blue 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator ticks, zone 6

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software

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SCALE 1:63360



USGS Fairbanks D-2 SW  
scale 1"=1mi  
Sect 13 T1S R2W

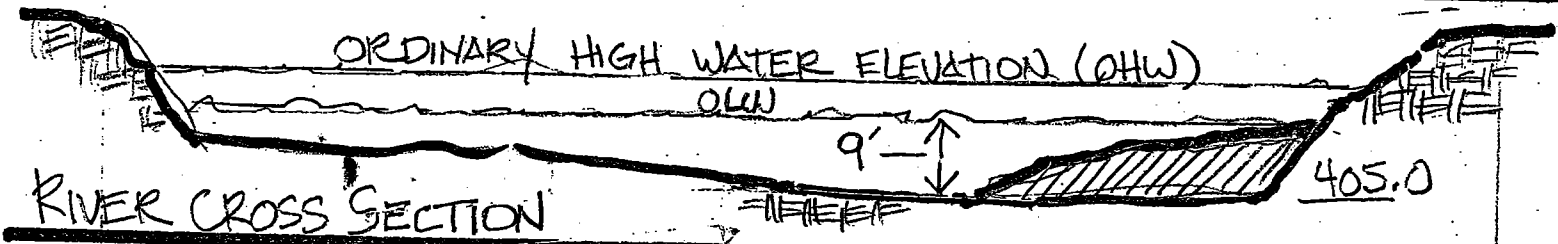
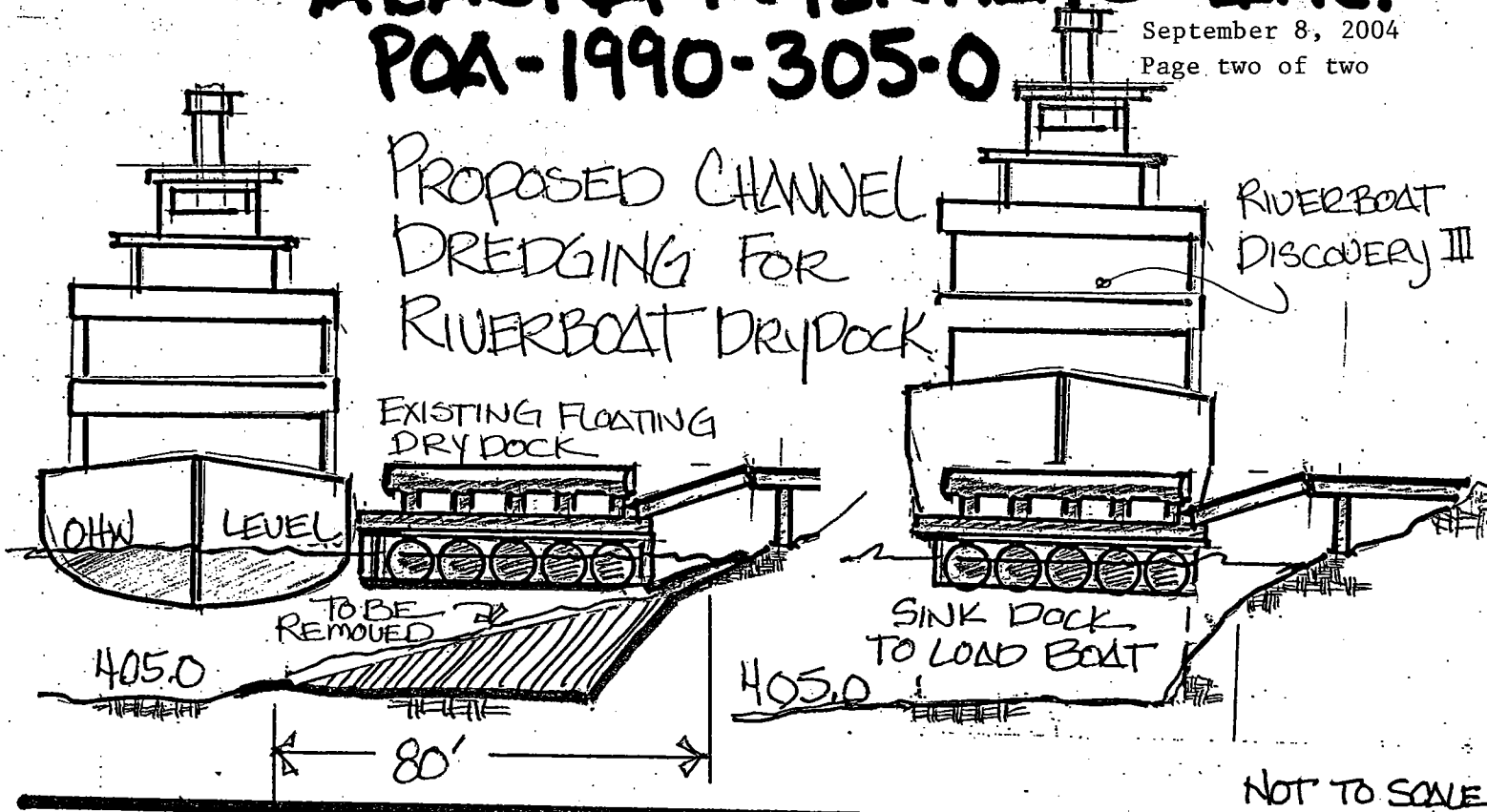
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# ALASKA RIVERWAYS INC.

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CHENA RIVER

TEMPORARY PAD BUILT FOR DRAGLINE OPERATION

